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Durham Rural District Council.



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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

*Year ending December 31st, 1925.*



Durham :

PRINTED AT THE "DURHAM CHRONICLE" OFFICE, SADLER STREET.

1926.



Durham Rural District Council.

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DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

I regret that the state of my health precludes this report from being as ample as it might be.

Appended are the Chief Vital Statistics for the Rural District of Durham for the year ending December 31st, 1925, and they are placed for purposes of comparison side by side with those of the previous year.

Chief Vital Statistics for 1925, and their comparison with 1924.

	Durham Rural District, Annual rates per 1000 population.	
	1924.	1925.
Birth-rate .. .. .	26·37	23·29
Death-rate .. .. .	12·18	11·98
Zymotic death-rate .. .. .	0·72	0·51
Infant Mortality (per 1000 births) .. .. .	94	95
Small-pox .. .. .	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	0·06	Nil.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .. .. .	0·09	0·06
“ Fever ” Enteric and Continued) .. .. .	Nil.	0·03
Measles .. .. .	Nil.	0·33
Whooping-cough .. .. .	0·27	0·09
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years) .. .. .	0·30	0·30
Phthisis .. .. .	0·67	0·76
Other Tubercular Diseases .. .. .	0·27	0·21
Acute Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	2·76	2·08
Influenza .. .. .	0·30	0·06

I wish in conclusion to thank all the members and officers of the Council for their valuable aid in carrying out the duties of my office.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HARRISON.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) .....	30914
Population (1925) .....	33050
Number of inhabited houses (1921) .....	6171
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ..	6547
Rateable value .....	£190283
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£821

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate.
Births { Legitimate .....	782	400	382	(R.G.)
{ Illegitimate .....	30	11	19	23.29

Deaths .....	396.	Death Rate (R.G.)
		11.98

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	{ from sepsis .....	1
	{ from other causes ....	4

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—  
Legitimate, 94 ; Illegitimate, 200 ; Total, 95.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... 11

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... 3

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ..... 10

3.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	23	20	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	116	114	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	4	4	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	...	34
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	...	...
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Pulmonary	M.	...	...	6	...	8
	F.	...	...	4	...	17
	Total ..	..	..	10	...	25
(b) Non-pulmonary	M.	...	...	3	...	3
	F.	...	...	4	...	4
	Total...	...	...	7	...	7

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	CASES.			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At home.	In hospital.				
	3	2	1	3	...	...	...



TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Num-ber.	Rate.					Num-ber.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Num-ber.	Rate.
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1920...	31,064	1048	1051	33·83	428	13·77	14	21	110	104	435	14·00
1921...	31,900	950	954	20·90	421	13·19	14	14	101	102	421	13·19
1922...	32,300	820	825	25·54	410	12·69	14	14	73	92	410	12·69
1923...	32,590	840	844	25·25	354	10·86	14	14	73	86	354	10·86
1924...	32,910	868	872	26·37	401	12·18	20	22	82	94	401	12·18
1925...	33,050	808	812	24·56	396	11·90	16	18	83	90	396	11·90

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 30,914.      Number of inhabited houses      ...      6,171 at Census of 1921.  
Total population of all ages      ...      31,584 at Census of 1921.      Average number of persons per house      5·118      "      "

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons outside the District—Sherburn Hospital, Houghall Isolation Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Durham County Hospital, Durham Union Work-house, Gilesgate Isolation Hospital.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District—Durham County Asylum, Sedgelyield; Houghall Isolation Hospital, etc.



TABLE II.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1925.

[illegible]

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1925.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Total Cases Notified in each Locality.											Total Cases removed to Hospital								
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.											Belmont.	Cassop-cum-Quarrington.	Coxhoe.	Pitlington.	Shadforth.	Sherburn	Shincliffe.	Broom.	Bearpark.	Framwellgate Moor.	Kimblesworth.		Hett.	Neville's Cross.	Croxdale.	Brancepeth.				
		65 and upwards																														
		Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65																				
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever...	116	1	7	3	10	10	61	20	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	1	9	4	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Diphtheria	23	...	...	2	...	3	7	6	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Enteric Fever..	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	...	...	1	...	...	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	168	4	7	6	11	13	72	34	7	8	3	3	3	...	15	26	10	26	2	11	15	18	4	...	...	3	12	1	...	...	138	

TABLE IV. Infant Mortality during the Year 1925.  
 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under  
 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes { Certified Uncertified			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Small-pox ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I
{ Scarlet Fever ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diphtheria ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Influenza ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculous ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Convulsions ..			4	..	I	I	6	I	I	I	..	9
{ Laryngitis ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Bronchitis ..			..	..	..	..	..	3	8	4	2	17
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ..			..	..	..	..	..	2	3	6	5	16
{ Diarrhœa, etc. ..			..	..	..	..	..	2	I	4	3	10
{ Gastritis ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Injury at Birth ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital debility, Malformations and Premature Birth ..			20	4	..	I	25	3	I	I	..	30
{ Other causes ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			24	4	I	I	31	11	14	16	11	83

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Notices served under the Housing Town Planning Act,  
1919, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.

No. of Notices served.	No. of houses inspected and reported.	No. of houses repaired.	No. of houses where work is proceeding or under observation.	No. of houses where closing orders have been made.
20	328	97	218	13

Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1875,  
during the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.

No. of Notices served.	No. of Houses inspected and reported.	No. of Houses repaired.	No. of Houses where work is proceeding.
36	432	104	319

Summary of Notices served during the Year ending  
Dec. 31st, 1925.

		Slaughter Houses.	Ash Closets erected.	Privy Middens abolished.	Water Closets erected.	Defective Yards.	Infected Houses & clothing	Removal of house refuse.	Other Nuisances.	Drains blocked.	Animals improperly kept.	Dairies and Cowsheds.	Overcrowding.
Notices served	...	22	65	62	8	17	140	24	30	19	4	107	6
Notices complied with	...	22	65	62	8	17	140	24	30	19	4	101	3



**DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**Summary of Work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year ending December 31st, 1924.**

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**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

During the year the above has had careful and regular inspection. There are still a number of Milk Producers in the district who do not conform to the Rules and Regulations as set out in the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and also the Regulations of your Council, and mostly with regard to the cleanliness of the Cowsheds, Cows, &c.

It is my intention during the ensuing year to report the worst of the offenders to your Council, to stop the sale of milk for human consumption from such places or have them dealt with accordingly.

The following Dairy Farms have still an inadequate and dangerous water supply, viz. :—Crime Rigg, Strawberry Hill, Running Waters (two farms), Broom Hill and Hett Moor.

I have repeatedly written the Owners of these farms and have met their representatives on the premises, but up to the present nothing has been done. I consider now that drastic measures should be taken to compel them to put in a proper water supply or otherwise I shall be obliged to report the farms as unfit for milk production, and this would cause in my opinion an undue hardship on the occupiers.

The Tuberculosis Act, 1925, came into force on October 1st, and since that date I have reported a number of cows in the district (obviously suffering from advanced Tuberculosis) to the County Veterinary Surgeon, who has had them destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

It is my intention to keep a strict look out for these animals so that we may have a clean and healthy supply of milk in the district.

A few of the cowsheds which were structurally defective I am having repaired and put in order. One new cowshed has been built.

### **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**

There are now twenty-two slaughter-houses in the district, and there is approximately 60 head of cattle, 80 head of sheep, and 50 pigs slaughtered weekly in the district.

On April 1st, 1925, the Public Health (Meat) Regulations of 1924 came into force.

I convened a Meeting of the whole of the Butchers in the district at the Board Room, Sadler Street, Durham.

The Clerk (Mr. F. Kirby) attended and explained the Regulations to them.

I made arrangements for the whole of the slaughtering of animals in the Western Area to take place on the Monday or Tuesday of each week and in the Eastern Area on the Tuesday or Wednesday. Any animals slaughtered off these days I get the requisite three hours' Notice according to the Regulations.

The whole of the animals slaughtered each week is inspected by me or my Assistant at the time of slaughtering or shortly after. Seven diseased carcasses have been detected. All with the exception of one were voluntarily surrendered by the Owners and I had them destroyed.

On the whole nothing but first-class animals are slaughtered in the district and the premises kept in an orderly and clean condition.



## SCAVENGING.

On the whole the scavenging in the district is well and regularly carried out.

One Contractor during the year in the Village of Bearpark was doing his work very unsatisfactorily. I duly reported him to your Council, who terminated his contract and re-let the district.

Night scavenging was tried during the year in the Village of Bearpark, but owing to the difficulty in getting to the Refuse Tips in the dark it was not satisfactory and we again reverted to day scavenging.

The scavenging done by direct labour in the Parishes of Framwellgate Moor, Kimblesworth, Sherburn, and part of Shadforth continues to be well and regularly done, and will I think compare favourably in the matter of cost per house with the Parishes contracted for.

Owing to the increasing number of water closets in the district I am afraid in the near future we will find it somewhat difficult to get Refuse Tips for the dry ashes, as the farmers will not have them on the land owing to them being of no value as manure.

## BEARPARK.

The houses in this Village are a good type of workmen's dwelling. Those in my report of last year damaged by Colliery subsidence have now practically all been repaired and put in good structural condition.

I made a request to the Owners to have a concrete footpath laid down in front of the houses, but up to the present this has not been completed.

There have been built or in the course of construction about 100 houses in the Parish. When all are occupied it will alleviate the overcrowding and also find houses for a number of Colliery workers at present residing in Durham City and other places far distant from their work.

### **BELMONT.**

For the most part the houses in the above Parish still remain in a dilapidated and insanitary condition.

During the year eight Closing Orders have become operative in Broomside Lane, owing to the difficulty of finding other houses for the occupiers all are yet occupied.

It is somewhat difficult to enforce repairs, &c., under Noitice in this Parish, as for the most part the property is owned by small Owners who have not the means to repair the same.

I shall endeavour during the ensuing year to have more repairs, &c., carried out to make the old property somewhat habitable.

### **BROOM.**

The streets in the Vilage of Ushaw Moor have been made up during the year and are now in good condition.

Your Council still continues to build new houses in the Parish. There has been approximately about 60 completed and occupied, and a further 60 is in the course of construction.

I shall endeavour during the coming year to have the yards of the twenty houses situated in White House Lane, Ushaw Moor (Owners, Messrs. Pease & Partners, Ltd.) enclosed and laid with cement concrete.

**CASSOP-CUM-QUARRINGTON.**

During the year Messrs. Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., have completed 50 new houses at Bowburn of a most up-to-date type. All are now occupied by the firm's workmen.

CASSOP COLLIERY : Ten Notices have been served on the Trustees of the late Mr. J. Oddy's Estate respecting insanitary property in Front Street.

A few small repairs have been done to the property, but nothing near sufficient or in any way complying with the Notices already served.

**COXHOE.**

The twenty-two old miners' dwellings situated top block, Coxhoe Long Row, have been kept in fair repair by the Owners during the year, but they can never be made habitable until they are reconstructed.

The five old houses situated at California owned by Mrs. Thompson still remain in the same dilapidated condition. Closing Orders are operative over them, but owing to the difficulty of the occupiers finding other houses they are still occupied.

Four privy middens have been converted into water closets at The Pottery by your Council under Section 28, Housing Town Planning Act, 1919, and the cost of the same recovered from the Owners.

Six new houses have been built by private enterprise at Coxhoe during the year.

Three other houses have been converted to water closets.

**EAST HETTON.**

Messrs. Walter Scott & Co., Ltd., still continue to carry out repairs to their property by converting privies to ash-closets, enclosing and cementing yards and other repairs.

Fifteen Notices under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, have been served on Owners respecting property in Quarry Row and Lancaster Street, but up to the present nothing has been done.

Two Closing Orders are operative over houses in Green Street owned by Mrs. Lamb, but as usual the tenants not being able to find other quarters they are still occupied.

**FRAMWELLGATE MOOR.**

Owing to the Colliery Company going into liquidation the whole of their property has been sold.

All has been bought by private Owners.

The top block in Dyke Row, bought by Mr. W. Molyneaux, is being much improved by raising the houses, enclosing yards for each house, and providing garden ground.

When completed these will make good workmen's dwellings.

All the other property still remains in the same insanitary condition.

I intend during the year to make a detailed and systematic inspection of the whole of the houses, when I will report to your Council with a view to having the same dealt with under the Housing Acts, 1925.

Four privies in Brick Row have been converted into ash-closets.



About 40 new houses have been completed or are in the course of construction by your Council during the year.

Ten villa residences have been built, and many more are in the course of construction principally on the North End and White Smocks Estates.

### **SHADFORTH.**

The whole of the fifteen houses in Mary Street, Ludworth, have now been finished and made into good four-roomed dwellings with each a new ash-closet.

This work is still proceeding though very slowly in Coronation Street.

Thirty houses have been built or are in the course of construction by your Council at Ludworth.

### **SHERBURN.**

As in my report of last year the four houses in South Street, Sherburn, still remain unfinished.

The old houses situated in the Freehold, Sherburn, have mostly old tiled roofs which is impossible to make weatherproof.

Year after year the Owners plaster these old roofs, but as soon as the bad weather comes it is washed off, blocking up the spouts, and causing a serious nuisance.

They will never be satisfactory until the whole of the old tiled roofs are removed and the houses raised and good slated roofs put on.

During the year I reported to your Council a number of insanitary ash-closets situated mostly at Sherburn Hill.

I met the Colliery representative on the premises and pointed out the work required to be done, but up to the present little has been accomplished.

The old houses situated in Coronation Street East over which Closing Orders were made some years ago still remain in the same condition.

### **SUNDERLAND BRIDGE PARISH.**

The work of conversion of the old privies in Croxdale Colliery to ash-closets still proceeds, though slowly.

The whole of this work I expect will be finished during the ensuing year.

Some of the Private Owners on whom Notices were served have complied. Those who have not it is my intention during the ensuing year to ask your Council to do the work under the Notice served and recover the costs thereof.

During the past four years there has been approximately 500 houses built in the district, mostly by your Council and a few by private Owners.

All are of a most approved type, with bath room, water closets, ashbins, and other labour-saving devices, and all seem to be much appreciated by the occupiers.



In conclusion, I wish to thank all the Members of the Council, the Medical Officer, and all the other Officials for their kind co-operation and assistance during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. MENZIES,

Sanitary Inspector.





